

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Hitoshi YAMAMOTO, Hiromasa KUSAKABE, Kazuhito AKIYAMA
Serial No. : Not Yet Known
Date Filed : Herewith
For : A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING
 CONNECTIONS OF PC CARDS AND A PASSIVE-CARD-
 ADAPTING CARD USED FOR CONNECTING ONE OF THE PC
 CARDS TO THE APPARATUS

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, filed concurrently herewith, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The following commonly-owned U.S. patent applications are brought to the attention of the Examiner:

- (a) U.S. Application No. 10/067,481 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO, filed February 5, 2002;

- (b) U.S. Application No. 10/246,212 of Kazuhito AKIYAMA, filed September 18, 2002;
- (c) U.S. Application No. 10/282,728 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO, filed October 29, 2002;
- (d) U.S. Application No. 10/656,434 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO, filed September 5, 2003; and
- (e) U.S. Application No. 10/664,386 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO et al., filed September 18, 2003.

Copies of commonly-owned applications (a)-(e) are enclosed herewith.

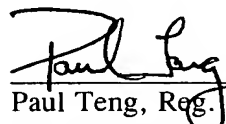
According to the August 5, 2003 OG Notice published by the Patent and Trademark Office, the Office has waived the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international application that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

Accordingly, copies are submitted herewith for only references listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 that are not a U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicants
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 278-0400

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| Form PTO-1449 | | | | | | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | | | | | | Atty. Docket No. 2271/71538 | | | | Serial No. Not Yet Known | | | | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | | | | | | | Applicants: Hitoshi YAMAMOTO et al. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Filing Date: Herewith | | | | Group Art Unit: | | | | | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Examiner Initial | | Document Number | | | | | | | | Date | | Name | | Class | | Subclass | | Filing Date if Appropriate | | |
| | | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 3-1-94 | | Otake et al. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5-7-96 | | Yamamoto et al. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 9-2-97 | | Yamamoto et al. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 6-23-98 | | Izawa et al. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 4-20-99 | | Yamamoto | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 11-9-99 | | Yamamoto | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5-15-01 | | Yamamoto | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 6 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 11-12-02 | | Akiyama | | | | | | | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Document Number | | | | | | | | Date | | Country | | Class | | Subclass | | Translation | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Yes No | | |
| | | JP | 20 | 00 | -2 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 9-22-00 | | Japan | | | | | | Abstract | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/067,481 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO, filed February 5, 2002. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/246,212 of Kazuhito AKIYAMA, filed September 18, 2002. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/282,728 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO, filed October 29, 2002. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/656,434 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO, filed September 5, 2003. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/664,386 of Hitoshi YAMAMOTO et al., filed September 18, 2003. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | | | | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |